

# **International evidence on the influence of kinderdarten on students' later competences**

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Parents have the option to enrol their children in kindergarten education (from 0 to 3 years) in many countries, although not all parents decide to do it, so their children are enrolled when they are between 3 to 5, or even when they reach the age of 6 and have to attend compulsory. The present research study analyses the influence of students' attendance to kindergarten on their 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores. In order to carry out this research, data from PIRLS 2011 and 2016 for 34 countries and an instrumental variable approach – to go beyond simple correlation – have been employed. Our results show that kindergarten attendance has a positive influence on students' reading scores in 18 of the countries under analysis, whereas it presents a null influence in 16 countries.

Keywords: kindergarten; instrumental variables; fourth grade; reading.

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